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Letter dated 12 September 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith the address of the Parliament of Ukraine to the parliaments of foreign States, parliamentary assemblies and international organizations regarding the elections of the Russian Parliament on the temporarily occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (see annex).

I would appreciate your kind assistance in having the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 31 of its seventy-first session, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 12 September 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Address of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (Parliament of Ukraine) to the parliaments of foreign States, parliamentary assemblies and international organizations regarding the elections of the Russian Parliament on the temporarily occupied territory of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea

Taking into account the attempt of the Russian Federation to conduct elections to the Russian State Duma on 18 September 2016 in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, which are temporarily occupied by Russia,

Underlining that the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol are integral parts of the sovereign territory of Ukraine,

Emphasizing that respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity and support of international peace and security remain a bedrock of international relations and international law,

Highlighting that the United Nations General Assembly, in its resolution 68/262 entitled "Territorial integrity of Ukraine", adopted on 27 March 2014, affirmed its commitment to the sovereignty, political independence, unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders and also called upon all States, international organizations and specialized agencies not to recognize any alteration of the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol on the basis of the referendum held on 16 March 2014 in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol and to refrain from any action or dealing that might be interpreted as recognizing any such altered status,

Taking into account the fact that the aggressive actions of the Russian Federation were condemned in numerous decisions of the European Union, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the Council of Europe and resolutions of the parliamentary assemblies of the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe,

Proceeding from the principle position of the international community regarding the condemnation of the occupation and the non-recognition of the annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol,

Recognizing that the presence of deputies in the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation elected in the territory occupied by the Russian Federation calls into question the legitimacy of the entire lower house of the Russian Parliament and that recognition of the results of the elections will be considered to be an act of certain legitimization of the ongoing illegal occupation of the Crimean Peninsula,

The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine:

Requests the parliaments of foreign States, parliamentary assemblies and international organizations to abstain from the participation in the observation of

illegal Russian parliamentary elections in Crimea and also calls upon them not to recognize the results of such elections under any circumstances;

Stresses that all foreigners who visit the occupied territory of Ukraine to take part in the observation of the illegal elections will be brought to criminal responsibility for violating Ukrainian law. The law enforcement agencies of Ukraine will open criminal cases for violations of the rules of entry into the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine with the purpose of causing harm to the national interests of Ukraine;

Requests foreign parliaments, parliamentary assemblies and international organizations to make official statements on the illegitimacy of recognition of the results of the elections to the State Duma of the Russian Federation on account of their being held on the territory of the temporarily occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea. Such statements will prove the illegitimacy of the representatives of the Russian Parliament who will be elected as a result on the territory of Crimea;

Requests authoritative international organizations to do their best to avoid the inclusion of the Russian Members of Parliament elected in the temporarily occupied territory of Crimea in the Russian parliamentary delegations to the parliamentary assemblies of the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation, given that such activity may indirectly indicate the legitimization of the occupation and annexation of the Ukrainian peninsula;

Assumes that only the steadfast position of foreign States and international organizations on the continuous condemnation of the Russian aggression against Ukraine and further condemnation of the occupation and non-recognition of the annexation of Crimea will support the restoration of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of our State within its internationally recognized borders.

8 September 2016